

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A prosthetic device for anterior-oblique insertion into an intervertebral space, comprising a first component having a first flange for engaging a first vertebra from an anterior-oblique approach, the first flange being angled relative to the longitudinal and transverse axes of the first component, and a second component having a second flange for engaging a second vertebra from an anterior-oblique approach, the second flange being angled relative to the longitudinal and transverse axes of the second component, and wherein the first and second components cooperate to permit articulating motion between the first and second components,

wherein the first component is triangular in shape to define first, second and third side portions.

2. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second flanges are adapted to be substantially aligned upon insertion of the prosthetic device into the intervertebral space.

3. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second flanges are adapted to be offset relative to one another upon insertion of the prosthetic device into the intervertebral space.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) The prosthetic device of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1 wherein the first flange is parallel with one of the first, second and third side portions.

6. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the second component is triangular in shape to define first, second and third side portions.

7. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 6 wherein the second flange is parallel with one of the first, second and third side portions.

8. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first flange extends along a substantial portion of the first component.

9. (Currently amended) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first flange includes a gap formed therein, the gap extending substantially through the first flange from an outer edge of the flange to a surface portion of the first component.

10. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first flange includes a sharp portion for engaging and penetrating the first vertebra.

11. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the second flange extends along a substantial portion of the second component.

12. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the second flange includes a gap formed therein.

13. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the second flange includes a sharp portion for engaging and penetrating the second vertebra.

14. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first component includes a first articular surface having a projection and the second component includes a second articular surface having a recess, the projection and the recess being adapted to engage one another to permit articulating motion between the first and second components.

15. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 14 wherein the projection is convex and the recess is concave.

16. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first flange is adapted to be positioned within a preformed anterior-oblique opening in the first vertebra.

17. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the second flange is adapted to be positioned within a preformed anterior-oblique opening in the second vertebra.

18. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second flanges include at least one hole formed therethrough.

19. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second flanges are coated with a bone-growth promoting substance.

20. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first component includes a pair of notches formed therein, the notches being formed in the first component in a direction substantially parallel with the first flange.

21. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the second component includes a pair of notches formed therein, the notches being formed in the second component in a direction substantially parallel with the second flange.

22. (Currently amended) A prosthetic component for forming a portion of a prosthetic device, comprising a first surface having a flange for engaging a vertebra from an anterior-oblique approach, the flange being angled relative to the longitudinal and transverse axes of the prosthetic component, and a second surface in an opposed relation to the first surface, the second surface being adapted to engage another prosthetic component, wherein the first component is triangular in shape to define first, second and third side portions.

23. (Currently amended) A prosthetic device for anterior-oblique insertion into an intervertebral space, comprising:

a first component, comprising:

a first articular surface and an opposed first bearing surface, the first articular surface forming a projection; and

a first flange extending from the first bearing surface, the first flange being angled relative to the longitudinal and transverse axes of the first component; and

~~a projection extending from the first articular surface; and~~

a second component, comprising:

a second articular surface and an opposed second bearing surface, the second articular surface forming a recess adapted to engage with the projection to provide for articulating motion between the first and second components; and

a second flange extending from the second bearing surface, the second flange being angled relative to the longitudinal and transverse axes of the second component; and

~~———— a recess formed in the second articular surface, the recess being adapted to engage with the projection to provide for articulating motion between the first and second components.~~

24. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 23 wherein the first flange is adapted to engage a first vertebra from the anterior-oblique approach.

25. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 23 wherein the second flange is adapted to engage a second vertebra from the anterior-oblique approach.

26. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 23 wherein the first component is triangular in shape to define first, second and third side portions.

27. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 26 wherein the first flange is parallel with one of the first, second and third side portions.

28. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 23 wherein the second component is triangular in shape to define first, second and third side portions.

29. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 28 wherein the second flange is parallel with one of the first, second and third side portions.

30. (Currently amended) A method for inserting a prosthetic device into an intervertebral space from an anterior-oblique approach, comprising:

providing a prosthetic device having a first component and a first flange extending along a surface of the first component, the first flange being angled relative to the longitudinal and transverse axes of the first component, and wherein the first component is triangular in shape to define first, second and third side portions, the device also having a second component and a second flange extending along a surface of the second component, the second flange being angled relative to the longitudinal and transverse axes of the second component; and

inserting the first component into a first vertebra and inserting the second component into a second vertebra from an anterior-oblique approach, whereby the first component engages the second component to provide articulating motion therebetween.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the first and second flanges engage and penetrate the first and second vertebra, respectively, during insertion.

32. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the first and second flanges are inserted into preformed openings of the first and second vertebra, respectively, during insertion.

33. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein insertion of the first and second components into the first and second vertebrae, respectively, is accomplished at substantially the same time.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 further comprising:
cutting an oblique slot into the first vertebra to receive the first flange.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein cutting an oblique slot includes guiding the cutting with a cutting guide.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the cutting guide is adapted to align the prosthetic device in a desired orientation.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 further comprising inserting a screw into the first vertebra.

37. (Previously presented) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first flange includes at least one hole formed therethrough.

38. (Previously presented) The prosthetic device of claim 37 wherein the at least one hole is adapted to receive a fixation element therethrough.

39. (New) The prosthetic device of claim 22 wherein the flange is parallel with one of the first, second and third side portions.